[English]

Meeting of National Water Convention Experts .

7052. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the national water convention experts were held in New Delhi in January 1992;

(b) if so, the suggestions made therein;

(c) whether the suggestions have been examined; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir. However, the 3rd National Water Convention was held at Nagpur on 5-2-1992 and 6-2-1992 on the main theme of "water conservation".

(b) to (d). The recommendations made by the Convention are given in the statement enclosed. These have been sent to the concerned Ministries and Department of the Government of India and State Governments for taking appropriate steps to examine and implement them.

STATEMENT

3rd National Water convention held at Nagpur 5th & 6th Feb., 1992 Recommendations

1. To hanness the large volumes of water flowing in the rivers during monsoon it is necessary to build appropriate reservoirs in a timebund manner to meet the increasing demand of food, forage, fibre and energy for the growing population.

2. Plan provisions for Irrigation Sector should be restored to a level of 15% of total outlay as in I and IV plans. Out of this, specific allocation should be earmarked for development of large multipurpose storage projects with matching provision from power sector and these projects should be take up as National Projects.

3. Techniques of watershed mangement and development for augmenting water supplies on dry landfarming areas should be adopted.

4. In water conservation measures, involvement of the beneficiaries should be attempted by providing encouragement and support by the Government.

5. Considering increasing demands on ground water and decline of water levels in some areas, adoption of ground water augmentation techniques and conjunctive use of surface and ground water may be resorted to.

6. River Basin authorities should be established to plan, execute and operate water resources projects to maximise benefits through optimal use of water. The authorities should monitor the implementation of environmental mangement plants.

7. Proper design and construction practice together with lining of selected reaches should help conservation efforts by reducing seepage and evaporation losses in the conveyance systems.

8. Performance evaluation studies of canal systems should be undertaken as a part of a regular operation and maintenance exercise periodically and remedial measures undertaken to conserve water are improve system efficiency.

9. For perennial streams, minimum flow in each river system needs to be maintained